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# Numerical semigroups attained by double covers of plane curves of degree six<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

We investigate Weierstrass semigroups of ramification points on double covers of plane curves of degree 6. We determine all the Weierstrass semigroups, especially when the genus of the covering curve is greater than 29 and the ramification point is on a total flex.

## 1 Notations and terminologies

Let  $\mathbb{N}_0$  be the additive monoid of non-negative integers. A submonoid  $H$  of  $\mathbb{N}_0$  is called a *numerical semigroup* if the complement  $\mathbb{N}_0 \setminus H$  is finite. The cardinality of  $\mathbb{N}_0 \setminus H$  is called the *genus* of  $H$ , denoted by  $g(H)$ . In this paper  $H$  always stands for a numerical semigroup. A *curve* means a complete non-singular irreducible algebraic curve over an algebraically closed field  $k$  of characteristic 0. For a pointed curve  $(C, P)$  we set

$$H(P) = \{n \in \mathbb{N}_0 \mid \exists f \in k(C) \text{ such that } (f)_\infty = nP\},$$

where  $k(C)$  is the field of rational functions on  $C$ . Then  $H(P)$  is a numerical semigroup, Here  $g(H(P))$  is equal to the genus  $g(C)$  of the curve  $C$ .

Let  $C$  be a plane curve of degree 6 and  $P_1$  its total inflection point, i.e.,  $T_{P_1}C = 6P_1$ , where  $T_{P_1}$  is the tangent line at  $P_1$  on  $C$ . Then we have  $H(P_1) = \langle 5, 6 \rangle$ , where for positive integers  $a_1, \dots, a_s$  we denote by  $\langle a_1, \dots, a_s \rangle$  the monoid generated by  $a_1, \dots, a_s$ .

If  $P_2$  is a point of  $C$  with  $T_{P_2}C = 5P_2 + Q$ ,  $Q \neq P_2$ . Then we have  $H(P_2) = \langle 5, 9, 13, 17, 21 \rangle$ . We set  $d_2(H) = \{h' \in \mathbb{N}_0 \mid 2h' \in H\}$ , which is a numerical semigroup. Let  $\pi : \tilde{C} \rightarrow C$  be a double covering of curves with a ramification point  $\tilde{P}$ . Then we obtain  $d_2(H(\tilde{P})) = H(\pi(\tilde{P}))$ . For example, if  $C = \mathbb{P}^1$ , then we have  $H(\tilde{P}) = \langle 2, 2g+1 \rangle$  with  $g = g(\tilde{C})$  and  $d_2(H(\tilde{P})) = \mathbb{N}_0$ . We pose the following problem:

**DCPHurwitz' Problem.** Let  $C$  be a plane curve of degree  $d$  and  $\pi : \tilde{C} \rightarrow C$  a double covering with a ramification point  $\tilde{P}$ . Then determine  $H(\tilde{P})$ .

<sup>1</sup>This paper is an extended abstract and the details will appear elsewhere.

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- Fact.** i) In the case of  $d = 1, 2$  the result is classical (Hyperelliptic case).  
 ii) In the case  $d = 3$  the result is also classical (Bielliptic case).  
 iii) In the case  $d = 4$  DCPHurwitz' Problem is solved ([6], [1], [2], [3])  
 iv) Let  $d = 5$ . If  $g(\tilde{C}) \geq 15$  and  $\text{ord}_{\pi(\tilde{P})}(T_{\pi(\tilde{P})} \cdot C) = 5$  or 4, then DCPHurwitz' Problem is solved ([4]) where for a line  $L$  in  $\mathbb{P}^2$  and  $P \in C$  we denote by  $\text{ord}_P(L \cdot C)$  the multiplicity of the intersection of  $L$  and  $C$  at  $P$ .

We consider DCPHurwitz' Problem in the case  $d = 6$ . The following are our results:

**Theorem.** Let  $C$  be a plane curve of degree 6 and  $\pi : \tilde{C} \rightarrow C$  a double covering with a ramification point  $\tilde{P}$ . Assume that  $g(\tilde{C}) \geq 30$ .

- i) If  $\text{ord}_{\pi(\tilde{P})}(T_{\pi(\tilde{P})} \cdot C) = 6$ , we determine  $H(\tilde{P})$ . If we explain it in detail, any numerical semigroup  $H$  of genus  $g > 29$  with  $d_2(H) = \langle 5, 6 \rangle$  is given by the Weierstrass semigroup of a ramification point on a double cover of a plane curve of degree 6.  
 ii) If  $\text{ord}_{\pi(\tilde{P})}(T_{\pi(\tilde{P})} \cdot C) = 5$ , there are eighty two candidates of the numerical semigroups  $H(\tilde{P})$ . We determine whether seventy four candidates are attained by ramification points on double covers of plane curves of degree 6 or not. We do not know whether the remaining eight candidates are attained or not.

## 2 The candidates of Weierstrass semigroups of double covers of plane curves of degree 6 over total inflection points

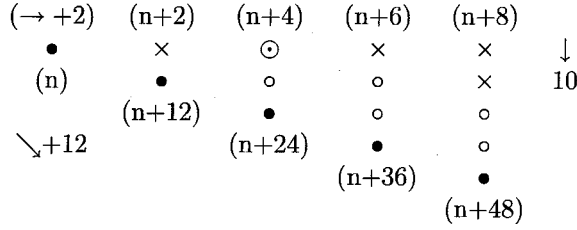
Let  $H$  be a numerical semigroup with  $d_2(H) = \langle 5, 6 \rangle$ . We consider the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{cccccc}
 (\rightarrow +2) & (n+2) & (n+4) & (n+6) & (n+8) & \\
 \bullet & \times & \times & \times & \times & \downarrow \\
 (n) & \bullet & \times & \times & \times & +10 \\
 & (n+12) & \bullet & \times & \times & \\
 \searrow +12 & & (n+24) & \bullet & \times & \\
 & & & (n+36) & \bullet & \\
 & & & & (n+48) & 
 \end{array}$$

which is called the triangle  $\Delta$  associated to the semigroup  $2\langle 5, 6 \rangle + n\mathbb{N}_0$ . The symbol " $\times$ " means that it is a non-element of the numerical semigroup larger than  $n$  if  $n$  is odd  $\geq 21$ . The triangle  $\Delta$  consists of the odd integers  $n + 38 - 10i - 2j$  with  $0 \leq i \leq j \leq 3$ , which do not belong to the numerical semigroup  $2\langle 5, 6 \rangle + n\mathbb{N}_0$ . We associate the coordinate  $(i, j)$  to the odd number  $n + 38 - 10i - 2j$ . The coordinate  $(k, l)$  generates the parallelogram

$$P(k, l) = \{(i, j) \mid 0 \leq i \leq k, 0 \leq j \leq l\}.$$

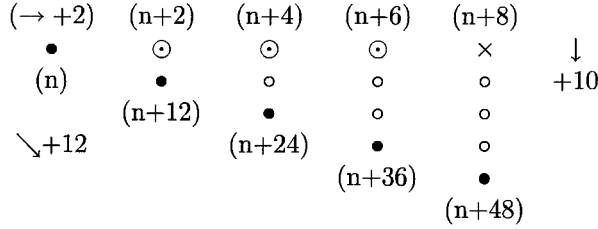
For example,  $P(3, 2)$  is the following, where  $\odot$  denotes  $n + 38 - 10 * 3 - 2 * 2$ .



We can associate to the numerical semigroup  $H$  the polygon

$$P(H) = \{(i, j) \in \Delta \mid n + 38 - 10i - 2j \in H\}$$

Let  $t(H)$  be the minimum number of generators for  $H$  which are odd and distinct from  $n$ . Then we have  $0 \leq t(H) \leq 4$ . If  $t(H) = 0$ , then  $P(H) = \emptyset$ . If  $t(H) = 4$ , then  $P(H) = \Delta$ . If  $t(H) = 1$ , there are 10 kinds of  $P(H)$ , i.e.,  $H$ . For example, if  $H = 2\langle 5, 6 \rangle + \langle n, n+4 \rangle$ . Then we have  $P(H) = P(2, 3)$ . Let  $r(H)$  be the number of the odd elements of  $H$  which are larger than  $n$  and less than  $n+40$ . Then  $0 \leq r(H) \leq 10$ . If  $r(H) = 0$ , then  $P(H) = \emptyset$ . If  $r(H) = 10$ , then  $P(H) = \Delta$ . If  $r(H) = 9$ , there are 4 kinds of  $P(H)$ , i.e.,  $H$ . For example, if  $H = 2\langle 5, 6 \rangle + \langle n, n+2, n+4, n+6 \rangle$ , then  $P(H)$  is the following:



The following table shows the number of  $H$ 's with  $d_2(H) = \langle 5, 6 \rangle$  having fixed  $t(H)$  and  $r(H)$ .

| $t(H) \backslash r(H)$ | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Total |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-------|
| 0                      | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 1     |
| 1                      | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 10    |
| 2                      | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0  | 20    |
| 3                      | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0  | 9     |
| 4                      | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1  | 1     |
| Total                  | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1  | 41    |

### 3 The candidates of Weierstrass semigroups of double covers of plane curves of degree 6 over almost total inflection points

Let  $H$  be a numerical semigroup with  $d_2(H) = \langle 5, 9, 13, 17, 21 \rangle$ . We consider the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{cccccc}
(\rightarrow +2) & (n+2) & (n+4) & (n+6) & (n+8) & \\
\bullet & \times & \times & \times & \times & \downarrow \\
(n) & \times & \times & \times & \bullet & +10 \\
& \times & \times & \bullet & (n+18) & \\
& \times & \bullet & (n+26) & \swarrow +8 \downarrow +10 & \\
& \bullet & (n+34) & & & \\
& (n+42) & & & & 
\end{array}$$

which is called the triangle  $\Delta_a$  associated to the semigroup  $2\langle 5, 9, 13, 17, 21 \rangle + n\mathbb{N}_0$ . The symbol " $\times$ " is a non-element of the numerical semigroup larger than  $n$  if  $n$  is odd  $\geq 21$ . The triangle  $\Delta_a$  consists of the odd integers  $n + 32 - 10i + 2j$  with  $0 \leq j \leq i \leq 3$ , which do not belong to the numerical semigroup  $2\langle 5, 9, 13, 17, 21 \rangle + n\mathbb{N}_0$ . We associate the coordinate  $(i, j)$  to the odd number  $n + 32 - 10i + 2j$ . The coordinate  $(k, l)$  generates the parallelogram

$$P_a(k, l) = \{(i, j) \mid 0 \leq i \leq k - 2(l - j), 0 \leq j \leq l\}.$$

For example,  $P_a(3, 2)$  is the following, where  $\odot$  denotes  $n + 32 - 10 * 3 + 2 * 2$ .

$$\begin{array}{cccccc}
(\rightarrow +2) & (n+2) & (n+4) & (n+6) & (n+8) & \\
\bullet & \times & \times & \odot & \times & \downarrow \\
(n) & \times & \times & \circ & \bullet & +10 \\
& \times & \circ & \bullet & (n+18) & \\
& \circ & \bullet & (n+26) & \swarrow +8 \downarrow +10 & \\
& \bullet & (n+34) & & & \\
& (n+42) & & & & 
\end{array}$$

We can associate to the numerical semigroup  $H$  the polygon

$$P_a(H) = \{(i, j) \in \Delta \mid n + 32 - 10i + 2j \in H\}.$$

Let  $t(H)$  be the minimum number of generators for  $H$  which are odd and distinct from  $n$ . Let  $r(H)$  be the number of the odd elements of  $H$  which are larger than  $n$  and less than  $n + 34$ . For example, if  $H = 2\langle 5, 9, 13, 17, 21 \rangle + \langle n, n + 4, n + 8, n + 16 \rangle$ , then  $P_a(H)$  is the following:

$$\begin{array}{cccccc}
(\rightarrow +2) & (n+2) & (n+4) & (n+6) & (n+8) & \\
\bullet & \times & \odot & \times & \odot & \downarrow \\
(n) & \times & \circ & \odot & \bullet & +10 \\
& \circ & \circ & \bullet & (n+18) & \\
& \circ & \bullet & (n+26) & \swarrow +8 \downarrow +10 & \\
& \bullet & (n+34) & & & \\
& (n+42) & & & & 
\end{array}$$

Hence, we have  $t(H) = 3$  and  $r(H) = 7$ .

The following table shows the number of  $H$ 's with  $d_2(H) = \langle 5, 9, 13, 17, 21 \rangle$  having fixed  $t(H)$  and  $r(H)$ .

| $t(H) \setminus r(H)$ | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8 | 9 | 10 | Total |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|-------|
| 0                     | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 1     |
| 1                     | 0 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 10    |
| 2                     | 0 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 6  | 7  | 2  | 3  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 27    |
| 3                     | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3  | 2  | 8  | 7  | 6 | 1 | 0  | 31    |
| 4                     | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1  | 0  | 2  | 3  | 3 | 3 | 1  | 13    |
| Total                 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 9 | 4 | 1  | 82    |

#### 4 Weierstrass semigroups attained by ramification points on double covers of plane curves of degree 6

**Theorem** ([6]). Let  $d_2(H) = \langle 5, 6 \rangle$  or  $\langle 5, 9, 13, 17, 21 \rangle$ . Assume  $n = \min\{h \in H \mid h \text{ is odd}\} \geq 21$ . We set  $r = r(H)$  and  $t = t(H)$ . Let

$$H = 2d_2(H) + \langle n, n + 2l_1, \dots, n + 2l_t \rangle.$$

Suppose that there exists a pointed curve  $(C, P)$  with  $H(P) = d_2(H)$  and  $r$  points  $Q_1, \dots, Q_r$  of  $C$ , distinct from  $P$  such that

- i)  $h^0(Q_1 + \dots + Q_r) = 1$ ,
- ii)  $nP - 2(Q_1 + \dots + Q_r)$  is linearly equivalent to a reduced divisor not containing  $P$ ,
- iii)  $h^0(K - l_i P - Q_1 - \dots - Q_r) = h^0(K - (l_i - 1)P - Q_1 - \dots - Q_r)$  for any  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, t\}$  where  $K$  is a canonical divisor on  $C$ .

Then  $H$  is attained by  $H(\tilde{P})$  where  $\tilde{P}$  is a ramification point on a double cover of  $C$  over  $P$ .

If  $n$  is sufficiently large, for example, larger than  $2r + 20$ , then the condition ii) is satisfied. A canonical divisor  $K$  on the non-singular plain curve  $C$  of degree 6 is the intersection of a cubic curve and  $C$ . For points  $P_1, \dots, P_s$  of  $C$  we see that  $h^0(K - P_1 - \dots - P_s)$  is the dimension of the cubics through the points  $P_1, \dots, P_s$ .

Let  $H = 2\langle 5, 6 \rangle + \langle n, n + 6 \rangle$ . Then  $r(H) = 6$ .

$$\begin{array}{cccccc}
 (\rightarrow +2) & (n+2) & (n+4) & (n+6) & (n+8) & \\
 \bullet & \times & \times & \odot & \times & \downarrow \\
 (n) & \bullet & \times & \circ & \circ & +10 \\
 & (n+12) & \bullet & \circ & \circ & \\
 \searrow +12 & & (n+24) & \bullet & \circ & \\
 & & & (n+36) & \bullet & \\
 & & & & (n+48) & 
 \end{array}$$

It suffices to show that  $h^0(Q_1 + \dots + Q_6) = 1$  and

$$h^0(K - 3P - Q_1 - \dots - Q_6) = h^0(K - 2P - Q_1 - \dots - Q_6).$$

We need to find a pointed curve  $(C, P)$  satisfying the above two conditions. Let  $C$  be the curve defined by the equation

$$z^3(yz^2 - y^3) + ax^3(yz^2 - x^3) + by^3(yz^2 + x^3 - 2y^3) = 0$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are general elements of  $k$  and  $P = (0 : 0 : 1)$ . Let  $Q_i = (\zeta^i : \zeta^{3i} : 1)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, 6$  where  $\zeta$  is a primitive 6-th root of 1. We introduce the two cubics  $C_{31}: yz^2 - x^3 = 0$  and  $C_{32}: yz^2 + x^3 - 2y^3 = 0$ , which are irreducible. Then we have  $C_{31}.C_{32} = 3P + Q_1 + \dots + Q_6$ ,  $C.C_{31} \geq 3P + Q_1 + \dots + Q_6$  and  $C.C_{32} \geq 3P + Q_1 + \dots + Q_6$ . The irreducibility of  $C_{31}$  and  $C_{32}$  means  $h^0(Q_1 + \dots + Q_6) = 1$ . By Cayley-Bacharach Theorem which we show below we get

$$h^0(K - 2P - Q_1 - \dots - Q_6) = h^0(K - 3P - Q_1 - \dots - Q_6).$$

**Theorem of Cayley-Bacharach.** *Let  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  be two plane curves of degree  $d$  and  $e$  resp., meeting in a collection  $\Gamma$  of  $de$  points. Let  $C$  be a curve of degree  $d + e - 3$  containing all but one point of  $\Gamma$ . Then  $C$  contains all of  $\Gamma$ .*

Apply  $d = e = 3$  to our case.

A numerical semigroup  $H$  is said to be *DCP* if there exists a double cover  $\tilde{C}$  of a plane curve with a ramification point  $\tilde{P}$  such that  $H = H(\tilde{P})$ .

**Theorem 1** ([5]). *Let  $H$  be a numerical semigroup with  $d_2(H) = \langle 5, 6 \rangle$ . Assume that the minimum odd integer  $n$  is larger than  $2r(H) + 20$ . Then  $H$  is DCP.*

But  $H = 2\langle 5, 9, 13, 17, 21 \rangle + \langle n, n + 16 \rangle$  with  $r(H) = 1$  is not DCP. Assume that  $H$  were DCP. Then  $h^0(K - 8P - Q) = h^0(K - 7P - Q)$ . But, there exists a cubic  $C_3$  such that  $C_3.C \geq 7P + Q$  and  $C_3.C \not\geq 8P + Q$ . This is a contradiction.

**Theorem 2** ([5]). *Let  $H$  be a numerical semigroup with  $d_2(H) = \langle 5, 9, 13, 17, 21 \rangle$ . Assume that the minimum odd integer  $n$  is larger than  $2r(H) + 20$ . Then we have the following table:*

| $DCP \setminus r(H)$ | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8 | 9 | 10 | Total |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|-------|
| <i>DCP</i>           | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 7  | 6  | 10 | 10 | 9 | 4 | 1  | 61    |
| <i>Not DCP</i>       | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3  | 1  | 0  | 2  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 13    |
| <i>Unknown</i>       | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2  | 3  | 2  | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 8     |
| <i>Total</i>         | 1 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 9 | 4 | 1  | 82    |

**Remark.** Recently we succeeded in determining whether the remaining eight unknown semigroups in the above table are DC or not ([5]).

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